

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00745 071444Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-10 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-04

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FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4469

UNCLAS BELIZE 0745

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON EAGR BH

SUBJECT: EXPORT OF AGRICULTURE COMMODITIES

REF: STATE 252113

1. GOB MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY"EXPORT PERMIT" IS REQUIRED PRIOR EXPORT OF MOST AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS INCLUDING CORN AND R.K. BEANS. GOB POLICY HAS BEEN TO GRANT SUCH PERMITS FREELY UNLESS A LOCAL SHORTAGE IS SEVERE ENOUGH FOR MARKETING BOARD TO SEEK STOCKS FROM ABROAD. IN SUCH SHORTAGE, GOB WOULD WITHHOLD EXPORT PERMITS UNTIL LOCAL DEMAND IS SATISFIED.

2. AT PRESENT, MARKETING BOARD BUYS LOCAL CORN AT 16 CENTS/ POUND BZE. FOR WHOLESALE AT 20 CENTS BZE. AND RETAIL AT 23 CENTS BZE., APPROX 9, 11, AND 12 CENTS US RESPECTIVELY. R.K. BEANS ARE BOUGHT AT 37 CENTS BZE., WHOLESALED AT 41 CENTS BZE, AND RETAILED AT 45 CENTS BZE, APPROX 18, 21, AND 23 CENTS/ POUND US. ALL PRECEDING PRICES ARE CONTROLLED BY GOB.

3. GOB TRADE OFFICIALS SAY THEY HAVE A READY CARICOM MARKET FOR BOTH CORN AND R.K. BEANS AT 8 AND 26 CENTS/POUND U.S. RESPECTIVELY WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO SATISFY. CORN HAS NEVER BEEN EXPORTED AND R.K. BEANS WERE LAST EXPORTED IN 1972 (200,000 POUNDS).

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4. MARKETING BOARD OFFICIALS SAY THEY HAVE IMPORTED 300,000

POUNDS OF R.K. BEANS THIS YEAR AND 1,500,000 POUNDS OF CORN
WHICH HAS BEEN PURCHASED IN THE U.S. AT APPROX 12 TO 12-1/4
CENTS/POUND US. ANOTHER 500,000 POUNDS OF CORN IS LIKELY TO
BE NEEDED BY FEBRUARY.
GAWF

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NNN

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